



## THE ARTS SOCIETY SUSSEX AREA

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### AREA SPECIAL INTEREST DAYS - 2019

Venue: The Ark, Mount Lane, Turners Hill, West Sussex RH10 4RA

Dates: Monday 28 January, Monday 11 March, Monday 25 March 2019

Time: 10 am to 3pm

Cost: £28 per day (including morning coffee, a Ploughman's Lunch and a glass of wine)

#### SPECIAL INTEREST DAY 1. MONDAY 28 JANUARY – GILES RAMSAY

##### **“From Shakespeare to Stoppard: 450 Years of Theatre History.”**

During the course of this SID, Giles Ramsay will take us on the most extraordinary journey, starting with poet, playwright and theatre entrepreneur, William Shakespeare, who became one of the wealthiest celebrities of the Elizabethan age.

This golden age of theatre came to an end with the death of Elizabeth I and was gradually replaced by a more visual feast, which suited the taste of the new court of James I and Queen Anne. This age was also to pass and following the trauma of the English Civil War, the Restoration brought a period of loucheness and scandal, which was duly reflected in the plays of the day.

By the early years of the eighteenth century, the British theatre was entering a dynamic new phase. Great institutions such as Covent Garden and Drury Lane emerged, as did actor-managers such as David Garrick, who laid the foundations for the extraordinary array of entertainments enjoyed in the Victorian period..

The twentieth century began with the drawing-room dramas of Noel Coward and Terence Rattigan, who were in turn to fall out of favour after the second world war, to be replaced by the angry young men such as Osborne, Pinter and Wesker. From the Elizabethan playhouses to the rise of the National Theatre, from Shakespeare to Stoppard, this SID will be a romp through four hundred and fifty years of British theatre.

## SPECIAL INTEREST DAY 2. MONDAY 11 MARCH – CHLOE SAYER

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This SID will look at the work of Frida Kahlo (1907-1954) and Diego Rivera (1886-1957), two of the most significant artists of the twentieth century. It will chronicle their flamboyant lives and turbulent marriage and will also examine their role in Mexican history. Key figures in the Mexican cultural renaissance of the 1930s, Kahlo and Rivera gave new value to the ancient cultures of the New World. After the revolution of 1910, at a critical time in Mexico's turbulent history, they helped it to explore its identity as a post-Colonial nation.

The Mexican mural movement, which began in the 1920s, was destined to produce some of the greatest public art of the last century. Rivera's intricate visual narratives, rich with allegory and symbolism, adorn the walls of public buildings. Inspired by Aztec and Maya imagery and early Italian frescoes, his vast murals combine social criticism with faith in human progress.

Kahlo's work is smaller in format. Arguably Mexico's most original painter, she made herself, her experiences and dreams the principal theme of her art. In 2005, an estimated 340,000 visitors saw her retrospective at Tate Modern and this year the V&A mounted an exhibition of her clothing and work.

## SPECIAL INTEREST DAY 3, MONDAY 25 MARCH – PETER MEDHURST

### **"Paintings Inspired by Music and Music Inspired by Paintings."**

It has long been recognised that the worlds of the visual and aural arts link with extraordinary power when one medium inspires the other. Peter Medhurst will explore a wide range of musical compositions that have been directly inspired by a composer seeing a particular painting and then being moved to create a musical response. For example, an orchestral work that will be discussed in great detail is Rachmaninov's *Isle of the Dead*, which he composed in 1907 having been inspired by Arnold Bocklin's painting of the same name. The Russian composer came across Bocklin's work quite by chance and found he was unable to rest until he had created a musical response. The result is one of Rachmaninov's finest works inspired by one of the greatest tone poems of the Post-Romantic era. How Rachmaninov went about creating this music and how he synthesised the visual elements of the painting into musical textures is a fascinating story.

Peter Medhurst discusses other similarly art-inspired compositions, including Martinu's *Frescoes Piero della Francesca* and Respighi's *Trittico Botticelliano*.

The process is then reversed when Peter considers a range of paintings where artists have drawn inspiration from specific pieces of music. These works include Schwind's *Symphonie*, Leighton's *Lieder Ohne Worte*, Kandinsky's *Impressions III (Concert)* and Piet Mondrian's *Broadway Boogie Woogie*.

BOOKING FORM FOR SUSSEX AREA STUDY DAY SERIES – 2019

**The cost of each Special Interest Day is £28 (including morning coffee, a Ploughman's Lunch and a glass of wine)**

I/We would like to come to:

Special Interest Day 1 – Monday 28 January. .... tickets @ £28 each.

Special Interest Day 2 – Monday 11 March. .... tickets @ £28 each.

Special Interest Day 3 – Monday 25 March ..... tickets @ £28 each.

**PLEASE PRINT**

Names of all attending.....

Applicant's address .....

Telephone ..... E-mail .....

Name of Applicant's Society ..... Arts Society

Please send your cheque payable to **The Arts Society Sussex Area** with a **stamped addressed envelope** to Angela Magness, Eatons, 43 Muster Green, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4AJ. Tickets are not issued, but your booking will be confirmed and final arrangements sent to you later in your s.a.e.

**Please note that no refunds will be made except where unforeseeable serious (typically medical) issues make attendance impossible. However, individuals can sell their tickets on, as long as you inform me of their name and contact details.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST! I very much look forward to seeing you on the day.

Ready reckoner for multiple bookings: 2 = £56, 3 = £84, 4 = £112, 5 = £140, 6 = £168, 7 = £196, 8 = £224, 9 = £252, 10 = £280, 11 = £308, 12 = £336.